

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
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R 161145Z MAR 78 ZFG
FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6325
INFO AMEMBASSY COLOMBO
AMEMBASSY DACCA
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMEMBASSY KABUL
AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
USLO PEKING
AMEMBASSY SEOUL
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L ISLAMABAD 2669

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: XGDS-2
TAGS: PGOV, PEPR, PK, KN, KS
SUBJECT: DPKR DELEGATION VISITS PAKISTAN: RELATIONS UNCHANGED

1. PAK SUNG CHUL, NORTH KOREAN (DPKR) VICE-PRESIDENT, LED
A 17-MEMBER OFFICIAL DELEGATION TO PAKISTAN MARCH 9-13.
INCLUDED WERE LO TAI SOK, VICE-CHAIRMAN OF THE DPKR ECONOMIC
COMMITTEE, AND LI HWA SON, VICE-DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF
INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE
KOREAN WORKERS' PARTY. THIS WAS THE FIRST HIGH LEVEL DPKR
VISIT TO PAKISTAN SINCE RELATIONS WERE ESTABLISHED
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BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES SIX YEARS AGO, ALTHOUGH FORMER
PM BHUTTO VISITED PYONGYANG IN 1975. THE CHIEF MARTIAL
LAW ADMINISTRATOR (CMLA) GENERAL ZIA UL-HAQ MET PAK AT
THE AIRPORT, AN UNUSUAL MOVE SINCE PAK IS NOT HEAD OF
GOVERN-
MENT. THE FACT THAT ZCH PERSONALLY GREETED PAK AT
THE AIRPORT SEEMS, HOWEVER, TO BE MORE THE RESULT OF

INSISTENT PRESSURES BY NK EMBASSY, AS WELL AS ZIA'S PERSONAL STYLE, RATHER THAN A SIGN OF WARMING PAK-DPRK RELATIONS.

2. DURING THEIR STAY, DELEGATION MEMBERS HELD TALKS WITH SENIOR GOP OFFICIALS AND MADE THE STANDARD VISITS TO TARBELA DAM, AND THE WAH ORDNANCE COMPLEX. PAK HELD TALKS WITH THE CMLA AND CALLED ON PRESIDENT CHAUDHRY. DURING HIS 100-MINUTED TALK WITH ZIA, PAK, READING FROM A VERY LENGTHY PREPARED TEXT, EXPRESSED SATISFACTION AT THE EXISTING CLOSE RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES AND REAFFIRMED THE DPRK'S DESIRE TO FURTHER STRENGTHEN TIES IN ECONOMIC AND TRADE FIELDS. ZIA IN REPLY REITERATED HIS COUNTRY'S OFT-STATED POSITION THAT PAKISTAN SUPPORTS THE PEACEFUL REUNIFICATION OF THE KOREAN PEOPLE WITHOUT EXTERNAL INTER-FERENCE. SOUTH KOREAN CONSUL CHOI TOLD AMB MARCH 14 THAT MOST OF THE MEETING BETWEEN ZIA AND PAK WAS TAKEN UP WITH PAK'S SOMNIFIC READING, IN KOREAN, OF KIM IL-SUNG'S LETTER AND ITS SUBSEQUENT ENGLISH TRANSLATION.

3. NOTHING CONCRETE APPEARS TO HAVE RESULTED FROM THE VISIT EXCEPT AN AGREEMENT TO EXTEND THE TRADE PROTOCOL BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES FOR AN ADDITIONAL YEAR. THE VISIT APPEARED TO BE MAINLY A DPRK GOODWILL EFFORT. NO COMMUNIQUE WAS ISSUED, A RESULT, ACCORDING TO MFA OFFICIALS, OF THE FACT THAT NO SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES WERE DISCUSSED BY EITHER SIDE. WE HAD HEARD THAT CONTRARY TO THE WISHES OF CONFIDENTIAL

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HIS ADVISORS, THE CMLA, DURING HIS CONVERSATION WITH PAK, ACCEPTED AN INVITATION FROM KIM IL-SUNG TO VISIT THE DPRK. HOWEVER, ACCORDING TO SOUTH KOREAN CONSUL GENERAL, ZIA CMERELY MADE A PRO FORMA ACCEPTANCE OF A PRO FORMA INVITATION AND HAS NO INTENTION OF VISITING PYONGYANG. IN BANQUET SPEECHES AND STATEMENTS BY GOP AND DPRK OFFICIALS NO NEW GROUND WAS BROKEN BY EITHER SIDE. BOTH REITERATED THEIR NOW STANDARD FORMULATIONS FOR THE REUNIFICATION OF THE TWO KIREAS AND SUPPORT FOR THIRD WORLD CAUSES.

4. CHOI SAID THAT THERE IS DISAGREEMENT AMONG GOP OFFICIALS ON THE PROPER BALANCE IN PAKISTAN'S RELATIONS WITH THE DPRK AND THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA. ACCORDING TO CHOI, THE CMLA AND FOREIGN SECRETARY SHAHNAWAZ FAVOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF FULL DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH THE ROK. ON THE OTHER HAND, AGHA SHAHI, THE ADVISOR FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS, IS AGAINST SUCH A MOVE AND HAS CITED ALLEGED CHINESE DISAPPROVAL AS JUSTIFICATION FOR HIS POSITION. CHOI CITED ZIA'S ANTIPATHY TOWARDS THE DPRK AS THE CHIEF REASON HE DOES NOT WANT TO VISIT THAT COUNTRY. ACCORDING TO CHOI, ZIA'S ATTITUDE IS PARTIALLY DUE TO THE FACT THAT NORTH KOREA HAS RENEGED ON AN AGREEMENT TO PROVIDE

PAKISTAN WITH 130 MM CANNON AND ARTILLERY SHELLS. CYE KOREANS HAVE REPEATEDLY TOLD THE PAKS THAT THEY CANNOT NOW DELIVER THE LAST 28,000 ROUNDS OF 130 MM AMMUNITION PROMISED AND IN ADDITION IF THEY CAN FULFILL THE CONTRACT IN THE FUTURE, THE COST WILL MORE THAN DOUBLE. CHOI SAID HE DOES NOT KNOW THE DETAILS OF THE ORIGINAL AGREEMENT OR THE AMOUNTS INVOLVED. CHOI FEELS THAT NORTH KOREA'S ACTION HAS POINTEDLY DEMONSTRATED TO THE PAKS THAT THE DPRK HAS LITTLE TO OFFER PAKISTAN AND THAT ISLAMABAD'S INTERESTS WOULD BE BETTER SERVED BY CLOSER RELATIONS WITH THE ROK.

5. DURING HIS CONVERSATION WITH AMB ON THE DPRK DELEGATION'S VISIT, CHOI SAID THAT SOUTH KOREA HAS BEEN LOOKING AT AID
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AND INVESTMENT PROJECTS THAT COULD AMOUNT TO ABOUT 200 MILLION DOLLARS, INCLUDING ESTABLISHMENT OF A RICE/EDIBLE OIL PLANT (OIL EXTRACTED FROM RICE HUSKS), CEMENT AND FERTILIZER PLANTS, AND STEEL CASTING PLANT FOR THE SOVIET STEEL MILL IN KARACHI. CHOI SAID SEOUL WOULD APPROVE THIS PACKAGE, OR SUBSTANTIAL PART OF IT, IF PAKISTAN MADE AN "APPROPRIATE GESTURE." WHEN ASKED WHAT CONSTITUTED AN "APPROPRIATE GESTURE," CHOI REPLIED THAT AT A MINIMUM PAKISTAN WOULD HAVE TO SEND A HIGH-LEVEL OFFICIAL DELEGATION TO SOUTH KOREA TO DISCUSS THE PACKAGE AND AT THE OPTIMUM, THE ESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS BETWEEN SOUTH KOREA AND PAKISTAN. CHOI SAID HE WAS ALSO ATTEMPTING TO ARRANGE A VISIT BY ZIA TO SOUTH KOREA WHEN THE CMLA MAKES HIS PROPOSED VISIT TO INDONESIA AT SOME UNSPECIFIED DATE IN THE FUTURE. SUCH A VISIT, CHOI SAID, WOULD HAVE TO BE PRECEDED BY THE ESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES, BUT HE ADDED THAT ZIA WOULD NOT RETURN FROM SUCH A VISIT EMPTYHANDED.
HUMMEL

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TAGS: PGOV, PEPR, OVIP, PK, KN, KS, (PAK SUNG CHUL)
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